



Greenways & Trails Committee

Minutes -- January 19, 2005

Present: Luanne Diffin, Dave Evans, Jo Carole Haxel, Jeremy Krumwiede, Greg Lindley, Bill Lonon, Jamie Lueders, Bill Millager, Derrel Smith, Jim Welch, Dana Mather, and Lynn Atkins of the Rogers Hometown News.

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by chair Luanne Diffin at the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Introductions were made around the room.
2. Greenways & Trails Master Plan
 - a. Update -- Diffin provided a brief overview of the committee's progress and the current status of the master plan.
 - i. Trail loops through the city, 17 sections have been outlined.
 - ii. Primarily using drainage basins and floodways.
 - iii. Many existing parks and schools are on the trail, or nearby.
 - iv. Connectivity to Bentonville trails at NWACC.
 - v. Connectivity to the Heritage Trail at several locations.
 - vi. One section near completion – Blossom Way Trail
 1. Located behind Rogers High School from Dixieland Road to S. 26th St.
 2. Designed by Arkansas Game & Fish, and the University of Arkansas.
 3. Funded by a grant of about \$700,000 for the purpose of restoring the creek and designing a trail.
 4. Trail is 10-foot wide concrete, with several bridges, and is approximately one mile in length.
 - vii. Master trail plan will provide a development plan for the city to be used by property developers and the city for construction of the trails to predetermined specifications.
 - viii. City Council approved funding in December with a line item in the budget. Two years of funding will include the master trail plan creation, and building funds. After the first two years, funding will be for maintenance.
 - ix. The committee will take the master trail plan to a potential funder in March.
 - b. Presentation by Jo Carole Haxel, landscape architect.
 - i. Previously the parks director for Siloam Springs.
 1. Planned and implemented Dogwood Springs trail of 5 miles around Siloam Springs.
 2. If you build it, they will come.
 - ii. Seeking information on what will serve the community's needs.
 1. A plan is never done.
 2. Packet will be presented to potential grant funder March 1.
 - a. Overall trail system
 - b. Details of first 6 sections: Blossom Way, Mercy Health System site, sections #2, 3, and 4 of Turtle Creek, and to NWACC.
 3. Two checkpoints and several additional meetings will be needed.
 - iii. Items to consider
 1. Style of the trail, or the "look."
 2. Multi-use system
 - a. Define what we mean, who will be using the trails.
 - i. Bikers, walkers, runners, skaters, equestrian?

- b. Specific areas may be designated for special uses, ex. equestrian.
 - c. Street crossings must be considered based on planned uses.
 - 3. Amenities
 - a. Lighting, benches, drinking fountains, restrooms, trash cans.
 - b. How important are amenities?
 - i. Should they be added now, or later?
 - c. Provide an identity for the trail system
 - i. In Siloam Springs, the use of one style of light poles identify the trails no matter what the surface is.
 - d. Lighting doubles the cost of the trails, may provide additional safety, or may not.
 - 4. Maintenance
 - a. Who will maintain the trails?
 - i. Parks Department, citizen groups?
 - b. To what level will they be maintained?
 - i. Mowed, edged, litter pick-up, landscaping, surface
 - c. What is the impact?
 - i. Costs, identity, looks
 - 5. Public Participation
 - a. Must meet the needs of the people
 - b. The public must be able to claim ownership.
 - i. Adopt-A-Trail program for sponsorship, Trail Keepers for maintenance and beautification.
 - ii. In Siloam Springs, businesses provide funding (\$1,500 - \$2,500) to purchase supplies, service organizations provide time to buy material and install it. Each then feels ownership for their portion of the trail and takes pride in maintaining it.
 - c. Public art on trails.
 - 6. Presentation to the public or Marketing
 - a. Hold a ribbon cutting or other public event for grand opening.
 - b. Make people aware of the trails.
 - c. Business relationships are possible.
 - i. Ex. an outdoor café next to the trail.
- c. Discussion of needs and goals
- i. Multi-use trail
 - 1. Not equestrian
 - 2. Allow bikes, strollers, walkers, runners, rollerblades
 - 3. No motorized equipment
 - 4. Will need bollards to keep vehicles off trails at major intersections or access points
 - 5. Will have many on-grade street crossings and areas where sidewalks will be used.
 - 6. Must make it obvious to passersby that it is a trail
 - 7. Signage
 - 8. No lighting – too expensive, too much vandalism, all city parks are only open from sunrise to sunset.
 - ii. Amenities
 - 1. Spend money getting the trail down first.
 - 2. Amenities should come later.
 - 3. Keep amenities to a minimum, perhaps at access points.
 - 4. Each segment should be completed enough to stand on its own, and include a looped section as well as being part of the linear primary trail.

5. Some sections may be highly visible, at which we may want amenities.
6. Trail specifications:
 - a. Main trail should be 10-feet wide
 - b. Smaller loops may be between 6- to 10-feet wide.
 - c. Markings on the trail surface such as stripes, dashes in center?
 - i. Serve no purpose, increase maintenance.
 - d. Markings on the trail surface as signage?
 - i. Warn users of bridges, intersections, etc. with surface markings and signage.
 - e. Trail surface suggestions
 - i. Main trail should be concrete.
 - ii. Will it change surfaces when it nears water?
 - iii. Concrete lasts longer, costs the same as asphalt, needs less base.
 - iv. Asphalt is faster and easier to install, maintaining the edge is a problem, weeds grow through it.
 - v. Need to determine and set specifications for the right thickness, number of joints and rebar for concrete.
 - f. Signage and identity
 - i. Must have signage to mark trail system.
 1. Currently – Rogers Trail System
 2. Suggested – Rogers Trail Loop, or “the Loop”
 - ii. Signage may also designate specific sections of the trail system.
 1. Ex. Blossom Way Trail
 - iii. Need to design signage
 1. Jim Swearingen designed Rogers Trail System signage.
 2. Need smaller section signage and names.
 3. All signs should look familiar, and similar to each other.
 4. Brand the concrete of the trail like Fayetteville with a stamp in the concrete representing Rogers.
 5. Ask Patrick Sbarra to assist in creation of logo and design for entire trail system and for individual trails.
 - g. Access points and nodes
 - i. Access at new hospital will be highly used due to visibility, parking availability, should be nice trail head.
 - ii. Sidewalk system is lacking in Rogers, so many will drive to nearest access point.
 - iii. Potential to partner with schools and businesses at trail heads.
 - iv. When vendors see the trail they may be interested in funding it.
 - h. Restrooms
 - i. All parks have facilities, and most are located about 2 miles from each other along the trail system.
 - ii. Year-round facilities were a frequently requested amenity in Siloam Springs.
 - i. Waterways
 - i. Need to include how to deal with streams, water.

- ii. May need separate ordinance on greenways. Should encourage not destabilizing waterways, not paving.
- 3. Update on activities
 - a. Bike route
 - i. Bike route designed by Grimsley Graham, was provided to Steve Glass, who sought Police Department input. Current status to be determined.
 - ii. Should plan an opening event for the route when finalized.
 - iii. Cross Hollows Triangle mountain bike trail – signage needed, then ready to use.
 - b. Website
 - i. Bill Millager will update and upgrade the current website.
 - ii. Will work with Ron Bird at Design Works to incorporate into the city’s website and server.
 - c. Blossom Way Trail
 - i. Bridges have been approved.
 - ii. Crafton, Tull & Associates agreed to design bridge abutments.
- 4. Tree City Coordination
 - a. City has been asked to increase activity of Tree Board in order to continue receiving designation of Tree City USA.
 - b. Greenways & Trails Committee has been asked to take over the duties of the Tree Board in order to maintain the Tree City designation.
 - c. Committee members discussed responsibilities of the tree board, as well as alternatives.
 - d. Recommended determining the requirements of the Tree City designation, and to ask Mayor Womack for his opinion.
- 5. Action Items
 - a. State grant will be sought to fund Oakdale Junior High trail to the system.
 - b. Bill Lonon, trails coordinator for Lowell, asked the committee to consider connections to Lowell’s trail system, and to keep him informed.
 - c. By telephone earlier in the day, Harrison French asked the committee to consider a connection to the Bentonville trail system in the area of Horsebarn Road, where several property owners have expressed interested in developing trails.
 - d. The committee agreed to meet on February 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the Chamber to review the progress of the Master Trail Plan and provide feedback to Jo Carole Haxel.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Mather, Vice President – Community Development